

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

PC-01 AID-05 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 SCS-06 CA-01

OPR-02 SY-05 A-01 HA-05 IO-13 /105 W

-----097274 130053Z /12

O R 122340Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7786

INFO USICA WASHDC

USDOC WASHDC

NSC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCICALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USSOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS CANAL ZONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4310

DEPT ALSO PASS TO PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PINR, ELAB, MOPS, CS, NU

SUBJECT: SITREP 13: 12 SEPTEMBER

SUMMARY: THE STRIKE CONTINUES AT THE SAME LEVEL. AN ARMED
INVASION LAUNCHED FROM COSTA RICA WAS REPELLED BY THE GN WHICH
MAY HAVE CROSSED INTO COSTA RICA IN PURSUIT. SOMOZA HELD A
PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE STATED THAT THE COUNTRY
WAS RAPIDLY RETURNING TO NORMAL. END SUMMARY.

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1. GENERAL STRIKE: LONG LINES WERE IN EVIDENCE AT BANKS, FINANCE
COMPANIES, ETC. THOSE GAS STATIONS REMAINING OPEN WERE ALSO DOING
LARGE VOLUME OF BUSINESS. THE GON GRAIN AGENCY, INCEI, ALSO HAD
LONG LINES. AN ECON SOURCE HAS INDICATED THAT FEW FIRMS TURNED A
PROFIT THIS YEAR AND, THEREFORE, GON REVENUES ARE EXPECTED TO BE
LOW. ANOTHER MAJOR INDUSTRIAL FIRM (NABISCO) REPORTS

ITS WAREHOUSE IN LEON WAS LOOTED OF FOOD. ITS EMPLOYEES HAVE REQUESTED COMPANY ASSISTANCE AS THEY ARE RUNNING OUT OF FOOD.

2. DISTURBANCES: EMB UNDERSTANDS THAT MOST AMCITS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DEPARTED CHINANDEGA, ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS THAT ONE FAMILY REMAINS IN TOWN. AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF AMCITS REMAIN IN THE LEON AREA AND, EARLY IN THE DAY, REPORTED CONTINUING GUN FIRE. IN THE AFTERNOON, AT LEAST ONE AMCIT WAS ABLE TO LEAVE LEON AND TRAVELED TO MANAGUA. THE RED CROSS REPORTED THAT, AS OF 1:30 PM LOCAL TIME, IT WAS STILL BEING DENIED ACCESS TO DISTURBANCE AREAS. THE RED CROSS REPORTS HAVING RECEIVED CALLS FROM VARIOUS CITIES REQUESTING MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND WATER. REPORTS HAVE ALSO REACHED EMB THAT GROUPS OF PERSONS ARE GOING HOUSE-TO-HOUSE THROUGH POORER SECTIONS OF MANAGUA, DEMANDING FOOD, ARMS, MONEY, ETC. EMB UNDERSTANDS THAT RESTORATION OF ORDER IN MASAYA BY GN ACCOMPLISHED WITH HEAVY CASUALTIES AND THAT PARTS OF ESTELI AND CHINANDEGA REMAIN OUT OF GN CONTROL.

3. PRESS: ICA REPORTS THAT, OCTAVIO SACASA OF TELEVISION CHANNELS 2 AND 12, HAS INDICATED THAT CHANNEL 2'S "EXTRAVISION" NEWS PROGRAM WOULD BE OFF THE AIR UNTIL AT LEAST JANUARY. ADDITIONALLY, ABC RADIO (OWNED BY SACASA) PLANS TO CARRY NO NEWS. WITHIN 45 DAYS, CHANNEL 12 WILL CEASE OPERATING, PROVIDED THE GN GRANTS THE REQUIRED PERMISSION. SACASA INDICATES HIS COMPANY IS LOSING 100,000 DOLLARS PER MONTH. SOMOZA HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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AFTERNOON IN WHICH HE STATED THAT ALL CITIES OTHER THAN CHINANDEGA AND LEON WHICH HAD BEEN THE SCENE OF DISTURBANCES HAD BEEN RETURNED TO GN CONTROL. IN LEON, HE SAID THAT IN A FEW AREAS, POCKETS OF SNIPERS REMAINED ACTIVE. CHINANDEGA, HE CONTINUED, WOULD BE UNDER CONTROL BY TOMORROW AT THE LATEST. SOMOZA ALSO SAID THAT THE RED CROSS WOULD BE PERMITTED ACCESS TO DISTURBANCE AREAS.

4. MILITARY: THIS MORNING, ACCORDING TO GN REPORTS AND SOMOZA'S PRESS CONFERENCE, A GROUP OF 50 ARMED MEN INVADED NICARAGUA FROM COSTA RICA. THEY WERE ENGAGED BY THE GN AT SAPOA, WHERE THEIR ADVANCE WAS HALTED. THE INVADERS RETREATED BACK TO COSTA RICA WITH THE GN IN PURSUIT. IT IS NOT CLEAR IF THE GN CROSSED INTO COSTA RICAN TERRITORY IN PURSUIT. AS OF YESTERDAY, THE GN REPORTS 10 KILLED AND 30 WOUNDED AMONG ITS TROOPS. NO DEFINITIVE CIVILIAN/INSURGENT CASUALTY FIGURES AVAILABLE. OTHER REPORTS INDICATE THE GN MAY BE EXPERIENCING SHORTAGES BUT MORALE AND SPIRIT REMAIN HIGH. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF FIGHTING ALONG THE BORDER WITH HONDURAS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING ALL DAY. MILGP HAS LEARNED THAT M-79 GRENADE LAUNCHERS ARE BEING EMPLOYED BY GN TROOPS.

5. OTHER: THE RED CROSS TOLD LABOFF THIS AFTERNOON THAT ITS NETWORK OF HAM RADIO OPERATORS HAS GONE OFF THE AIR. THIS HAS

SERIOUSLY IMPEDED ITS COMMUNICATIONS. INCIDENTS INVOLVING MISSION PERSONNEL--BOTH AMCIT AND LOCAL--HAVE INCREASED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. THESE INCIDENTS IN WHICH PERSONNEL HAVE FELT THREATENED BY EITHER A GN OR REVOLUTIONARY HAVE OCCURRED BOTH IN THE MANAGUA AND MASAYA AREAS, BUT THERE IS NO INDICATION OF ANY OF THESE INCIDENTS BEING DIRECTED AGAINST EMB PERSONNEL. MISSION PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN URGED TO CURTAIL AFTER-HOURS TRAVEL. TO EMB'S KNOWLEDGE, NO EMBASSIES HAVE INITIATED EVACUATION PROCEDURES FOR THEIR NATIONALS.

6. COMMENT: INDICATIONS ARE THAT PEOPLE MAY BE BEGINNING TO RUN SHORT OF FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES. IF THIS BECOMES A CRITICAL SITUATION LOOTINGS AND THEFTS BECOME INCREASED POSSIBILITIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SITREP, POLITICAL STABILITY, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU04310
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780371-0650
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780977/aaaacrlf.tel
Line Count: 136
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 4cda5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Event:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1469905
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITREP 13: 12 SEPTEMBER SUMMARY: THE STRIKE CONTINUES AT THE SAME LEVEL. AN ARMED INVASION LAUNCHED FROM COSTA RICA WAS REPELLED BY
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PINR, ELAB, MOPS, CS, NU, FSLN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4cda5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014